

NEWSLETTER



ARBORETA & BOTANIC GARDENS

prepared by the public services division

March 10, 1974

PUBLIC SERVICES DIVISION

On February 19 a program dealing with plants and man was presented by David Fields at 122nd Street Elementary School in Los Angeles. The presentation was the pilot for a program of volunteer visitations to schools. Judging from the success of this initial presentation the program will be a valuable complement to the already existing school field trips.

ARBORETUM DIVISION

Hideo Abe has been promoted to the position of Arboretum Gardener and will work in the South Section.

County painters completed their work on the old gatehouse and the new information center. A garden shelter to be located in Meadowbrook will be constructed this month. It will serve as a vista point for the Asiatic/North American Section.

EDUCATION DIVISION

The Historical Section has been rejuvenated with the help of three County painters. The roof of the depot has been fireproofed, a bright shade of red; the cement floors were repainted in anticipation of our 50,000th visitor to the depot. Outside, the railings and the communication center were also repainted. With great loving care, Norman Reiman restored and repainted the four benches around the depot.

In the Queen Anne Cottage the porch floor was repainted, and the walls damaged by the fire of 1969 were painted. The bell tower is now one of the beauty spots of the Arboretum.

We have a new roof on the Hugo Reid Adobe and, in the Coach Barn, the floor has been fireproofed.

RESEARCH DIVISION

A consecutive numbering system for the mounted herbarium specimens has been initiated. Each sheet will eventually contain a herbarium stamp and its consecutive number. For example:

HERBARIUM OF THE
LOS ANGELES STATE
& COUNTY ARBORETUM
1

The stamp will identify the mounted sheet as a LASCA specimen. This is especially desirable for the many specimens received in exchange from other herbaria, and therefore containing other than LASCA labels. The consecutive numbering system will give each mounted specimen a reference number, and will serve as a current accounting of the number of mounted specimens in the herbarium.

Sato Shimoda, from Pasadena High School, is the most recent student to join in the herbarium student program. The other students are: Camellia Atwan, Pasadena High School; Robert Topert, Arcadia High School; and Jon Nickoloff, Long Beach State College. All of these students have a common desire to learn about plants, and how to identify and preserve them. We welcome their participation.

DESCANSO DIVISION

The camellia show was well attended in spite of the gas shortage. The final count, 7,848, included a number of out-of-town and out-of-state camellia hobbyists.

The February 10 walk through the camellia forest, led by George Lewis, attracted 110 people.

Plumbers from the Mechanical Department are installing a new watering system in the rose garden that will eventually eliminate the job of hand watering 8,000 plants.

Although February is rated the second rainiest month in and around Los Angeles, it was a dry month at the gardens except for a few drops the last two days.

Don Graf and his family visited the Canyon Museum at Palm Springs recently.

Bobby Vargas and his wife Mary placed second in the annual Gold Skate Classic held in Bakersfield. They were in the skating production of a "Brazilian Extravaganza." Eleven of the best groups from the western region were selected and Bobby's group missed first by only a single point.

After serving as secretary at Descanso for nearly 6 years Rise Shirley has been transferred to the Business Department at the Arboretum. We are all going to miss her, but everyone wishes her the very best of luck in her new work.

Don't forget the Daffodil Show, March 23 and 24.

SOUTH COAST DIVISION

Our administration building and shop are getting a coat of fresh paint, courtesy of Mechanical Department painters.

Annuals in Leisure Circle are now in bloom. Anemone coronaria, Papaver nudicaule, Heuchera maxima, Pyrethrum roseum, Bellis perennis, and Viola lutea splendens all flash their bright colors for visitors in this favorite rest spot. The whole garden is blooming, including: Chrysanthemoides moniliferum, Hibiscus huegelii, Callistemon jeffersii, Westringia rosmariniformis, Dombeya cayeuxii, Viburnum suspensum, Prunus persica, dimorphotheca sinuata, and Epiphyllum species (Orchid cactus).

Mike Thorne (AG) has transferred from South Coast to the Arboretum, moving his family from suburban Torrance to a beautiful rural spot in the foothills. We hope the move is great for all. See you at the Christmas party, Mike!

Bird activity has been sparked by the unseasonably warm weather. Red-shafted flicker, black phoebe, scrub jay, common bushtit, blue-gray gnatcatcher, Brewer's blackbird,

lesser goldfinch, rudy-crowned kinglet, oriole species, western meadowlark, Audubon's warbler, loggerhead shrike, and goshawk were all observed here during the month of February.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

The Department of Personnel has announced that an open enrollment for the County-sponsored optional group term life and accidental death and dismemberment insurance plans will be held the first three weeks in April. This open enrollment is for life and AD&D insurance only. Health insurance is NOT included. All permanent, full-time employees not now enrolled and who want this coverage, enrolled employees who wish to increase their coverage, and enrolled employees who want to add dependent coverage may do so during the open enrollment regardless of their health. Employees already enrolled in the plan of their choice need not take any action.

The first payroll deductions for those signing up during April will be from the June 10 paycheck and coverage will begin July 1.

The Department of Personnel reports that in 1973 the 180 employees who died included both men and women of all ages. Therefore, many young employees who feel "it can't happen to me" should seriously consider purchasing this low cost protection.

Each permanent, full-time employee will receive a brochure which describes the life insurance plans and gives the rates. This brochure, which will be distributed through each employee's own department, also contains the certificate describing the \$2000 County-paid group term life insurance. Each employee is urged to keep the certificate with his other valuable personal papers.

Those signing up or changing their life insurance coverage during this open period MUST forward the enrollment and payroll deduction authorization card to their departmental personnel or payroll office for the verification signature. Employees should NOT send such cards directly to the Personnel Department's Insurance Section.

All employees wishing to enroll, to increase their coverage, or to add dependent coverage, should contact Charleen Bastion in the Personnel Department.